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Main title

CONQUERING THE JUNGLE - *One Reel*

Produced by Educational Division of the Universal Film Mfg. Co. Inc. Photographed by Roswell W. Johnson

1. The commercial expansion of Sumatra, an island off the straits of Malacca, is closely allied with the rubber industry of the United States.
2. After a two-hour ride on the Deli Railroad in a most oppressively, hot climate, we were glad when the train crawled into Dolok Merengir, one of the important rubber centers in Sumatra.
3. We were not keen about loafing in the mangrove swamps of the lowlands waiting for sailing time, so the suggestion to look over the 20,000-acre rubber plantation of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company was a welcome one.
4. A glass-like macadam road running through the plantation, opened up the very heart of a primeval jungle.
5. Miles of newly-developed rubber estates vanished rapidly behind us.
6. We arrived just in time for dinner, and the homelike hospitality was a welcome relief from the monotony of travel.
7. At dawn the piercing echo of the native tom-tom disturbed our slumbers.
8. After a short trip through the trackless, swamp-ridden jungle, we were convinced that clearing this primeval forest was a Herculean task.
9. A small procession of coolies passed us, and the sight of their burden chilled any further desires we might have had to explore the jungle.
10. Further on, we saw bands of coolies cutting away the forest.
11. Large bonfires, fed by a vast amount of brush and fallen timber, blazed the trail of this great work of reclamation.

12. At the edge of the jungle was a vast plain covered with an enormous number of logs and thousands of tree stumps, the result of years of arduous labor.
13. Groups of coolies, scattered here and there, were pulling the stumps from the ground.
14. None of the stumps seemed to be too large for these men to tackle.
15. Millions of rubber seeds, carefully selected by the Goodyear Horticultural Staff, were being germinated.
16. The nursery contained many beautiful specimens of young rubber trees.
17. This vast undertaking was by no means an experiment. The older plantations on the Goodyear estate were yielding the finest grade of pure white rubber.
18. We learned that rubber is not obtained from the sap but from a milky-white juice called "latex", which is found just under the bark.
19. The latex flows from shallow grooves, which are cut daily by skilled natives. We noticed they were extremely careful not to cut deeper than the inner bark.
20. What surprised us most was the factory, a modern structure equipped with up-to-date machinery. A constant stream of coolies poured in, burdened with cans full of pure, white latex.
21. In a few hours it coagulated and formed a tough, elastic mass.
22. The slabs of rubber were so white and clean, they looked almost good enough to eat. And to think that they were to be transformed into automobile tires!
23. After passing through wringing-machines, the crepe-like sheets of rubber were hung up to dry.

24. And to us, each case of rubber was a symbol of the untiring efforts of the Goodyear Organization toward a still better service to mankind.
25. Civilization's conquest of the jungle is leaving its impression on the Bataks, a tribe, which though once notorious for cannibalism, is now a peaceful and industrious race.
26. The feast of fish "a-la-raw" killed our appetites.
27. Here in the midst of primitive mankind we were not alone - the sign of modern civilization had already embedded itself in these solitary highways.
28. There were big doings in town - Royalty was sitting in state.
29. Thousands of dark-skinned warriors filled the galleries of a natural amphitheatre to witness the yearly horse fair.
30. The few days, crowded with incident and interest, passed more quickly than we had expected, and before we knew it we were on our way to the boat.
31. We stopped to watch the coolies coaling the ship - a great life if they don't weaken.
32. Sumatra's exploitation has been carried on slowly but effectively since its relations with such institutions as The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company; and before the close of many years its economic development and wealth will astound the commercial world.

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